

**Alternative Energy Committee
September 22, 2014**

Members present: Larry Bean, Chair; Burke Henry, Vice Chair, Glenn Carlson, and Tom Banner.
Members absent: Carl Frederickson
Town Staff present: Pete Clark, Town Administrator
Town Board Supervisor present: Marty Curry
Public present:

1. Call to order.

The Alternative Energy Committee (AEC) meeting called to order by Chair L. Bean on Monday, September 22, 2014 at 10:04am. A quorum of the committee is present as shown above.

2. Minutes of the following meetings to be considered for approval:

A. September 5, 2014.

To be included in the consideration of the August 20, 2014 minutes - the spreadsheet submitted by B. Henry has been revised.

Pg 5: Advisory Team suggestions: strike "the Energy Secretary" - replace with "Attorney".

Motion by G. Carlson to approve the August 20, 2014 minutes as corrected, second, T. Banner.
All in favor, 3 ayes, 1 abstain (B. Henry), motion carried.

3. Contract Development with Chippewa Valley Alternative Energy (CVAE).

The Town Board has approved the contract with Chippewa Valley Alternative Energy.

Marty Curry, Town Board Supervisor now present. (10:08am)

Pete Clark, Town Administrator said Attorney Fauerbach would like a time frame in regards to the reference of energy use in the future. L. Bean said our planning has been for the year 2025. Pete Clark will relate that date to Attorney Fauerbach and the attorney will send a completed, revised contract which will include hold harmless, regulatory compliance and insurance for signature by the Town Board.

Pete Clark leaves meeting (10:10am)

Marty Curry said there is legislation being pushed at the State and Federal levels to overly tax new solar installations. This would make individual solar installations cost prohibitive. M. Curry would like to know if this committee could present a letter to the Town Board to speak against this legislation. L. Bean said this committee presented a resolution from Renew Wisconsin in this regard and the Town Board approved the resolution and the resolution had been forwarded to the State. L. Bean will follow up on this.

M. Curry leaves the meeting. (10:15am)

L. Bean said CVAE would like to schedule the mid-point progress report on October 3, 2014. The timeline had been set for Sept. 30th or Oct. 1st. Agreement to meet October 3, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. L. Bean will let CVAE know.

CVAE would like to schedule the meeting for the Final Report on November 14th.

Since L. Bean and B. Henry will not be here on that date suggestion to stream the meeting to allow everyone to participate. L. Bean will contact CVAE to ask for suggestions in this regard and also see if CVAE would have a draft of the Final Plan available to the committee before the November 14, 2014 meeting.

4. Budget recommendations for the Town Board.

5. Recommendations to the Town Board:

Items 4 and 5 will be discussed together:

1. Emphasize staff awareness and behavior regarding Town energy consumption.
You can have two identical energy-efficient houses with a family in each house.
The energy consumption of the two houses can differ by 100% based on each family's behavior. In this regard, by elevating the awareness of the staff you can reduce energy consumption.

Another point to consider is that the work a committee does is fine and a good service to the community, as is the consultant that has been hired, but we are not as good as the people who actually operate the facility.

2. Review and replace where needed all indoor and outdoor lighting with state of the art efficiency bulbs and fixtures (LED): Estimate: \$2,000.

In most cases this concerns just the bulbs but might have to change a few fixtures.

Number 3 and 4 will be considered together. Estimated cost from a contractor: \$20,000:

3. Replace 6 poles, heads and bulbs (LED) on the ferry dock; install wireless controls and photo cells. Contractor gave an estimated cost to replace the poles at \$2,000/pole.
4. Replace heads (if needed – not the poles) and fixtures/bulbs with new photo cells at the museum parking lot.

To be noted - government is usually the slowest to respond in regards to efficiency because government is somewhat insulated from the direct bill. This is the case with the Town and the Ferry dock; the Town does not pay the electrical bill for the ferry dock as that bill is paid by the users of the dock. However, if the users of the dock could see a substantial savings, that could be the incentive to change.

The cost could be cut in half for Items 3 and 4 if the present bulbs were replaced with LEDs and could show a savings of \$2,500 - \$3,000/year with most of the savings at the dock. G. Carlson said this would be a six year payback. The dock lease runs for another 15 years so this would be a very acceptable payback.

5. Rec Center parking lot lighting should probably be the lowest priority as the Town Foreman, Kristian Larsen, replaced the bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. These bulbs are not as good as LED but the lighting there is not critical.
6. Town Hall transom door replacement (2), insulated, low e glass. (\$12,000)
The transom doors in this building would be high cost with a long payback.
Suggestion to put up a temporary double entry door in the winter months.

Last year the committee recommended insulation for the Library and the Town Hall. The Library had funding donated specifically for this purpose and will go forward with insulating. G. Carlson said the Library is proceeding with installation of central air. The Board understands that there is not a solar system that will drive a central air conditioner. Central air will increase the load and was addressed in the Scope of Work.

Motion by G. Carlson to adopt the recommendations for next year's budget, second, B. Henry. All in favor, all aye. Motion carried.

6. Advisory Team suggestions for Solar Micro-grid project.

A list of suggested names is in committee packets. Nothing official has been done.

The purpose of an Advisory team would be to:

1. Review and comment on plans.
2. Let them and their sphere of influence know what we are up to.
3. Having these people on an advisory team would help with grant applications.

They would not have to attend meetings.

T. Banner suggests adding the current director of Focus of Energy. Northland College is also a good idea. The Chequamegon Bay Area Energy group includes WITC-Ashland which might have contacts.

7. Grant Opportunity discussion.

L. Bean gave Lisa Potswald, Planning and Zoning Administrator and our grant writer, the contact information for Xcel Energy. Our consultant will also look for funding.

B. Henry suggested Apostle Islands Area Community Fund and the Island Association. Local funding could be the match on a grant application.

8. Set next meeting and agenda.

Next meeting set for October 3, 2014 at 10am.

G. Carlson said to be noted on B. Henry's spreadsheet that there are 4 facilities/meters at 797 Big Bay Road. The consultants said meters cost \$20/month. If these could be combined into one meter you would save \$60/month. Will ask the consultants about this.

9. Adjourn.

Motion by B. Henry to adjourn, second, T. Banner. All in favor, all aye.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 am.

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant

Minutes approved as presented March 6, 2015